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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Conclusions and recommendations

1. The Committee reiterated the importance Member States attached to the medium-term plan and recalled, in that context, regulation 3.3 of the programme planning regulations and rules, which states that, after adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations.

2. The Committee noted that the preparation of the medium-term plan was guided by the new planning and budgeting process laid down in General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions and, in that context, particularly welcomed the consultations with functional, sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies throughout the process. The Committee also noted, however, that a number of proposed programmes had not been reviewed.

3. The Committee noted the proposed new structure of the medium-term plan.

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4. The Committee recalled that the preparation of the medium-term plan is guided by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and recommended that further efforts be made towards closer adherence to those regulations and rules, particularly for the revisions of the medium-term plan.

5. The Committee felt that the objectives of many subprogrammes should be stated with greater clarity and precision. That would facilitate the evaluation of those subprogrammes. The distinction between objectives of Member States and objectives of the Secretariat should also be more precise, in terms of the respective roles of the Member States and the Secretariat. Strategies and courses of action of the Secretariat should also be clearly spelt out.

6. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to propose priorities among the subprogrammes of most programmes of the medium-term plan.

7. The Committee noted, however, that a number of programmes, particularly in the political sector, did not include proposals for priority among subprogrammes and decided to revert to the question at its September session on the basis of further information to be provided by the Secretary-General in the context of its consideration of the overall question of priority-setting.

8. The Committee noted the inconsistency in the priority designations of the various subprogrammes. The Committee recommended that the term "high priority" should be used throughout the medium-term plan whenever reference was made to "priority", or "highest priority".

9. The Committee recommended that the two "low priority" designations in the medium-term plan should be deleted.

10. The Committee noted that a clear identification of new activities, stipulated in regulation 3.2, had not always been achieved in the proposed medium-term plan. The Committee also noted that while the medium-term plan would be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes (regulation 3.2), new activities that might be proposed by the Secretary-General in fulfilment of the general objectives of the Organization would be given a legislative mandate by the adoption of the medium-term plan by the General Assembly (rule 103.2 (d)).

11. The Committee noted the absence of an indicative estimate of the necessary resources in the proposed medium-term plan as envisaged in regulation 3.3. In that regard, the Committee took note of the informal additional information provided by the Secretariat during its consideration of the proposed medium-term plan.

12. The Committee stressed the importance of the revisions to the medium-term plan, the first to be undertaken in 1992. Several programmes would have to be thoroughly revised in the light, inter alia, of resolutions and decisions to be taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly before the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 came into effect.

13. The Committee recommended that decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 1990, particularly during its seventh and eighth special sessions, be fully reflected in the proposed medium-term plan.

14. The Committee welcomed the intention of the Secretariat to present the medium-term plan in a new format, which would entail the reissuance of the document in its entirety after each biennial revision.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 1. Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

1. At its 46th meeting, on 5 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 1, Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 1)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that references to co-operation and co-ordination in the overall strategy for the programme should have been more extensive and, in that context, expressed concern that appropriate co-ordination with the Department of Public Information be maintained in the implementation of subprogramme 3.

3. Some delegations suggested that highest priority should be assigned to subprogrammes 1 and 2. Other delegations emphasized the importance of subprogramme 3.

4. A number of delegations questioned the concept and mandate for peace-making and how it related to the other elements of the programme, namely, good offices, peace-keeping and research and the collection of information. In that context, the Committee noted the related exposition in paragraph 6 of the introduction to the proposed plan.

5. With regard to peace-keeping operations, some delegations emphasized the paramount role of the Security Council. A number of other delegations, however, felt that legislative authority for subprogramme 2, cited in paragraph 1.11, should have been drawn more widely to include related action by the General Assembly, including action taken at its forty-fourth session in response to recommendations of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

6. A number of delegations felt that the exposition of principles underlying peace-keeping operations in paragraph 1.12 should have been fuller, including reference to the need for the consent of parties to a conflict. Other delegations, however, felt that the text of paragraph 1.12 should not be changed. The importance of geographical balance was emphasized.

7. Several delegations expressed concern with the possibility that the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations referred to in paragraph 1.15 of the report could give rise to possible duplication or overlapping with other structures in the Secretariat. They noted the assurances provided by the Secretariat that the Group was basically a task force, which did not duplicate the functions of the different line departments involved in those operations, nor undermine the direct responsibility and accountability of those departments, being basically an advisory group to the Secretary-General.

8. Other delegations emphasized the importance of peace-keeping operations and expressed concern that their effective implementation should not be impeded by retrenchment and economy measures. The Committee noted that the need for a capacity to organize and manage peace-keeping operations, as set out in subprogramme 2, was not dependent upon the continuation of specific operations.

9. While fully accepting the mandate of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information under General Assembly resolution 44/164 of 15 December 1989, some delegations questioned the inclusion of a humanitarian mandate of that nature under programme 1, rather than under programme 36. Some delegations felt that other Secretariat units should be encouraged to support the Office for Research and the Collection of Information in the implementation of its work programme.

10. One delegation suggested that Member States might be added tc paragraph 1.20 (b) as a source of information. Another delegation emphasized that information gathering under subprogramme 3 should not infringe on the sovereignty of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee welcomed inclusion of activities programmed under programme 1 in the proposed plan and emphasized their central importance in the work of the Organization.

12. The Committee emphasized the need for cost-effectiveness in the conduct of peace-keeping operations and the need to keep such operations under constant review.

13. The Committee emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication in carrying out the activities outlined in paragraph 1.20 (d).

14. The Committee recommended approval of programme 1 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 12. Global development issues and policies

1. At its 48th meeting, on 6 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 12, Global development issues and policies, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 12)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations questioned the designation of high priority to subprogrammes 1, 5 and 9. Some delegations felt that subprogrammes 3 and 6 should be assigned high priority.

3. Some delegations were of the opinion that there was a certain amount of overlap among programmes 11, 12 and 14.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee stressed that more emphasis should be given to the link between economic and social development.

5. The Committee agreed that General Assembly resolutions 44/228, 44/232 and S-18/3 should be included in the relevant subprogrammes as mandates.

6. The Committee further agreed that the co-ordination of activities between programme 12 and other programmes, as well as with specialized agencies, was an essential aspect of the implementation of the programme.

7. The Committee recommended approval of programme 12 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and with the following modification: the words "debt overhang" in paragraph 12.42 should be replaced by "external debt".

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 23. Transnational corporations

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 4 June 1990, the Committee considered draft programme 23, Transnational corporations, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 23)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations suggested that a new subprogramme on "Transnational corporations and environment" should be added to the programme.

3. Some delegations indicated that the programme did not clearly address the role of transnational banks in external borrowing and debt servicing or the related responsibilities of the Centre.

4. A number of delegations stressed that the programme did not adequately reflect the measures that should be taken in relation to transnational corporations in South Africa and transnational corporations dealing with South Africa.

5. Some delegations suggested that subprogramme 3 should be assigned high priority. Other delegations supported the priority designation proposed by the Secretary-General.

6. Several delegations emphasized the importance of transparency and disclosure of all relevant information on the activities and operations of transnational corporations, particularly for the host countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee noted that the work envisaged in respect of the code of conduct was contingent upon the adoption of the latter.

8. The Committee was of the view that more emphasis should be placed in the programme on the impact and role of transnational corporations in the context of environment and development.

9. The Committee recommended approval of programme 23 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the conclusions outlined above and the following modifications:

(a) The references to "centrally planned economies" in paragraphs 23.13, 23.17, 23.20 and 23.27 should be replaced by "Central and Eastern European States";

(b) Paragraph 23.10 (c). Insert "all" after "with";

(c) Paragraph 23.16. Delete the words "the Commission and" in the second sentence;

(d) Paragraph 23.22. Insert "dumping of toxic wastes" after "chemicals," and ", including nuclear wastes," after "material" in the second sentence;

(e) Paragraph 23.22. Replace "appropriate" by "effective" in the last sentence;

(f) Paragraph 23.28. Replace "examine ways of translating those findings into intergovernmental and governmental policies and measures" by "make proposals, as appropriate, to relevant intergovernmental bodies".

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 36. International protection of and assistance to refugees

1. At its 50th meeting, on 7 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 36, International protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 36)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should put more emphasis on preventing the root cause of the refugee problem.

3. One delegation felt that there should be no priorities among the solutions described in subprogramme 5 as there are different approaches to the refugee problem depending on the circumstances.

4. Some delegations pointed out that the programme should be seen in the context of the financial difficulties of UNHCR.

5. A number of delegations pointed out the need for UNHCR to adhere to its original mandate in order to ensure that it does not become a development-oriented organization.

6. The view was expressed that the problems of refugees in southern Africa was not adequately reflected in the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended approval of programme 36 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 36.19. Reference should be made to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

(b) Paragraph 36.22. The legislative authority for subprogramme 1 should include resolution 44/164;

(c) Paragraph 36.55. The legislative authority for subprogramme 6 should include the relevant resolutions concerning the legal protection of Palestinian refugees;

(d) Paragraph 36.56. The words "Subject to the availability of funds" should be deleted.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 37. Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes

1. At its 50th meeting, on 7 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 37, Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 37)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that specific activities planned for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should have been better highlighted in the programme. Other delegations suggested a separate subprogramme on the Decade.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee agreed on the importance of United Nations disaster relief efforts and stressed the need to ensure effective co-ordination system-wide and to utilize fully the designated focal points at the country level.

4. The Committee recommended that subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes, should also be designated high priority.

5. The Committee also agreed on the need to emphasize disaster mitigation efforts as recognized by the General Assembly in its proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989.

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 37 of the proposed medium-term plan subject to the above conclusions and with the following modification: subprogramme 3. Add General Assembly resolution 44/236 to the legislative authority.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 38. Public information

1. At its 41st meeting, on 2 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 38, Public information, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 38)).

Discussion

2. While a number of delegations felt that the narrative was clear, concise and in line with prior recommendations of the Committee, some delegations regretted that it did not mention any concrete and time-limited objectives.

3. Several delegations supported the priority designation of subprogramme 1, "Promotional services". One delegation indicated that subprogramme 2, "Information services", should have been granted high priority. Another delegation noted that the two subprogrammes were closely related and expressed the hope that the granting of high priority to the first subprogramme would not affect the second subprogramme negatively.

4. Some delegations were of the view that in the absence of assumptions on resource levels in conformity with rule 103.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the future implementation of the activities listed remained uncertain.

5. A variety of views were expressed by delegations on the major topics identified in paragraph 38.10. While some delegations were satisfied that the five areas of activity referred to reflected accurately the agreement reached by the Committee at its twenty-eighth session, other delegations were of the view that such a list of activities should be identical to the one contained in paragraph 1 (2) (c) of part II of resolution 44/50 of 8 December 1989, entitled "Questions relating to information". One delegation felt that the issue of human rights should be mentioned in relation to other issues in the social sector and that the issues of trade and the elimination of poverty should be included in connection with development issues. Other delegations questioned the inclusion of the establishment of the new international economic order and of the establishment of a new world information and communication order among the development issues. One delegation expressed the view that, in dealing with the question of Palestine referred to in the list, the Department should endeavour to present a balanced presentation on the subject.

6. Some delegations stressed the importance of having a geographical balance at the senior levels of the Department as a way to reflect the diverse views of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee agreed with the structure of the programme in two subprogrammes.

8. The Committee stressed the need for improvement in the quality and timeliness of outputs in subprogramme 2.

9. The Committee also noted the absence of specific references to recent and forthcoming meetings and conferences as the source of mandates for future special public information activities. The Committee stressed that periodic revisions to the medium-term plan should provide an opportunity to update programme 38 in that connection.

10. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring linguistic diversity in the outputs of the Department.

11. The Committee further noted that the narrative did not include a specific reference to the activities carried out by the information centres and expressed the wish that future programme budgets should contain adequate provisions for their operation.

12. The Committee recommended approval of programme 38 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

IV. CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Cross-organizational programme analysis

1. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 14 May 1990, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on industrial development (E/AC.51/1990/6).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee noted with appreciation the improved quality and presentation of the report and such innovations in its format as inclusion of an executive summary at the beginning and the extensive use of graphics in the display of data. It was considered that those new approaches would be useful in the forthcoming thematic analyses.

3. The Committee noted that the definition of industrial development in the report was broad and not in conformity with that used by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Committee stressed that in sectors like industrial development, which could be subject to wide interpretation, there was a need to have an agreed definition of the activitiy under review in order to facilitate meaningful cross-analysis and to avoid comparisons of different types of activities.

4. The Committee noted the conclusion in the report that the system as a whole was pursuing the mandates in industrial development in a rational manner, given the resources available for that purpose.

5. Given the contribution of the World Bank in financing industrial development in developing countries, the Committee recommended that other United Nations organizations with significant operations in industrial development that did not at the present time have active co-ordinative arrangements with the Bank should consider establishing, under mutually agreeable terms, active and pragmatic co-ordination arrangements.

6. In the case of UNIDO, which had major responsibilities in that field, both directly as the principal United Nations organization in industrial development and as a result of its legislative mandate to co-ordinate activities of all United Nations organizations in the field, the Committee suggested that UNIDO, in co-operation with the World Bank, should consider establishing a substantive liaison function.

7. The Committee stressed the importance of co-ordination of activities at the national level among the various organizations engaged in industrial development. Given the significant size of multilateral funding of those activities at that level, it was recommended that co-ordination at the national level be strengthened, through, inter alia, United Nations resident co-ordinators playing a more pivotal role.

8. UNDP was invited to consider ways and means to provide an information exchange function with regard to pre-investment activities it funded in the area for the mutual benefit of different types of executing agencies.

Industrial development and the environment

9. The Committee stressed the need for the United Nation organizations active in industrial development to increase their efforts, within their own spheres of competence, to bring about greater understanding of the importance of environmentally favourable considerations in the process of promoting industrial development in developing countries. The Committee also noted that at the general conference of UNIDO in November 1989 the member States of the organization had not agreed to fund its proposal on industry and the environment.

10. Given the special responsibilities of UNIDO in the field of industrial development, and those of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the field of environment and the work being done by the World Bank on the issue of industrial development and the environment, it was suggested that those organizations should work closely with each other and with other relevant organizations in the system with a view to co-ordinating their activities more effectively through appropriate consultative mechanisms in order to benefit the United Nation system as a whole, bearing in mind the system-wide medium-term environment programme.

11. The Committee emphasized the importance of the 1992 United Nation Conference on Environment and Development for economic growth and the industrial development objectives of all countries, though prticularly those of developing countries. In that context, a full examination should be carried out of the potential means to achieve those objectives in environmentally safe ways. To assist in that developing countries should have access to technologies designed to promote environmentally sound industrial development. The joint efforts involving United Nation organizations in that undertaking suggested in paragraph 9 were welcomed.

12. The Committee highlighted the importance of the proposal by the Economic and Social Council for a thematic analysis on environment and development for 1993. It called upon all relevant United Nation bodies to begin the necessary preparatory work on that analysis at an early date, as well as to provide their inputs to the work of the preparatory committee and subsequently to the Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Least developed countries

13. The Committee noted that the least developed countries received a low share of development resources for industrial development and stressed the need to provide them with an adequate level and share of resources to enable them to attain viable and sustained industrial development.

Economic co-operation among developing countries/technical co-operation among developing countries

14. The Committee recognized the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. It recommended greater use of those co-operative instruments among all developing countries.

Women and development

15. The Committee also stressed the need for the organizations of the United Nations system to pursue efforts towards the full involvement of women in industrial development programmes and project activities designed to enable them to participate in the industrialization process to their full potential and in accordance with the system-wide medium-term plan on women and development, 1990-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Introduction

1. The proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6) was introduced by the Secretary-General to the Committee at its 22nd meeting, on 22 May 1990.

2. The Committee considered the introduction to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Introduction)) at its 23rd to 44th meetings, on 23 to 26 and 29 to 31 May and 1, 2 and 4 June 1990.

Discussion

3. Several delegations felt that the introduction was a well-written, balanced and intellectually challenging document, which outlined in a comprehensive manner the tasks facing the Organization in the years ahead. Other delegations, however, thought that the document was too descriptive, without providing a clear road-map for the plan period.

4. Most delegations agreed with the assessment of the Secretary-General that the world now stood in a new seminal period with many challenges and opportunities for the United Nations in the years to come.

5. Most delegations concurred with the designation by the Secretary-General of peace-making and peace-keeping activities, and enhancement of human well-being as overall priorities. Many delegations stressed the need for greater specificity in the designation of priorities, especially in the economic and social field, and called for closer observance of the programme planning regulations and rules regarding priority-setting.

6. Several delegations welcomed the emphasis placed on the maintenance of international peace and security, and stressed, in that context, the importance of the Secretary-General increasingly extending his good offices.

7. Some delegations thought that the introduction should have given greater emphasis to the elimination of apartheid.

8. A few delegations concurred with the significance of the efforts of the Organization in further codification of international law, but some expressed reservations about the elaboration of non-binding declarations.

9. Some delegations expressed reservations about the role of the United Nations in facilitating the conversion from military to civilian production, as stated in paragraph 14 of the introduction, and thought that such conversion should be left to market forces.

10. Many delegations emphasized the crucial importance they attached to the activities of the United Nations in the area of economic and social development and were of the view that, relative to other fields of activities, the introduction did not give sufficient weight to that area.

11. Several delegations noted that the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session in resolution S-18/3, mentioned in paragraph 18 of the introduction, should be a major guiding force in the economic and social field during the plan period.

12. Many delegations felt that the problems of Africa had not been given sufficient attention in the introduction to the medium-term plan.

13. While several delegations noted the emphasis placed on the environment, other delegations considered that the various aspects of the relationship between environment and development should have been brought into sharper focus, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989.

14. Some delegations thought that the enjoyment of human rights referred, above all else, to individual rights and therefore that the reference to "peoples of the world" in paragraph 31 of the introduction should be changed to "people of the world". Other delegations, however, felt that the broad areas of economic, political and civil rights were as important as individual rights.

15. Several delegations welcomed the stress placed by the Secretary-General on the efforts against the illicit use and traffic of narcotic drugs.

16. Many delegations concurred with the view of the Secretary-General that the payment of contributions in full and on time to the regular and peace-keeping budgets of the Organization, in fulfilment of legally binding obligations, was of critical importance for the full implementation of the programmes and activities envisaged in the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with regulation 3.7 of the programme planning regulations and rules, the introduction to the medium-term plan constituted a key and integral element in the planning process.

18. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for personally introducing the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The Committee regarded it as a demonstration of the importance he attached to the plan.

19. The Committee took note of the introduction to the medium-term plan, which was a statement by the Secretary-General and not a proposal requiring intergovernmental approval, and therefore not subject to revision by the Committee.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 35. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. At its 48th and 50th meetings, on 6 and 7 June, the Committee considered programme 35 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 35)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations stressed the need for the programme to focus on the implementation of existing instruments rather than on the creation of new ones. It was noted in that context that the norms and treaties cited under the objectives of subprogramme 2 were not an exhaustive list of existing norms and treaties in the field of human rights. Some delegations expressed the view that the list should only include treaties that had been adopted by consensus.

3. Some delegations pointed out that the right of indigenous populations should not be allowed to be used as a pretext to violate the fundamental freedoms of other citizens.

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4. Some delegations felt that issues such as external debt and readjustment policies, toxic waste and chemical weapons should be dealt with more appropriately in other forums and that they should not therefore be envisaged as new areas of research under subprogramme 4. Other delegations felt that the impact of such issues on the enjoyment of human rights should be studied.

5. Some delegations pointed out that the rights of minorities were of a different nature than the rights of migrant workers and that the course of action envisaged under subprogramme 2 should take into account that difference.

6. A number of delegations questioned the reference to the right to development in the context of standard-setting under subprogramme 4, while others felt that such a reference was appropriate.

7. Some delegations were of the view that human rights, assistance to refugees and disaster relief were issues related to social development and that major programme VII should therefore be merged with major programme V.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee note that reference should be made to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the programme.

9. The Committee stressed the importance of the relationship between human rights, peace and development, and agreed that that relationship should be adequately reflected in the programme.

10. The Committee recommended that all the mandates related to human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories should be reflected in the programme.

11. The Committee recommended approval of programme 35 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above conclusions and with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 35.14 (b). Add "in accordance with established machinery" at the end of the paragraph;

(b) Subprogramme 2 should be given high priority since it deals with standards that have been set in the Charter.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 28. International drug control

Proposed United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control

1. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 31 May, the Committee considered the United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control. This plan was considered concurrently with programme 28, International drug control, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 28)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations were of the opinion that the plan of action represented a new tool reflecting present and future international co-operation in the field of drug abuse control and found that the plan provided a good overview of the activities currently being carried out in the United Nations system as well as those projected.

3. A number of delegations felt that the plan was a commendable effort but did not reflect the balance achieved in the Global Programme of Action adopted by the

General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (resolution S-17/2, annex); nor did it adequately reflect all existing mandates or contain all the activities mandated in the Global Programme of Action. Among the activities mentioned by delegations were those dealing with alternative development schemes, including crop substitution and financing, the strengthening of law enforcement capabilities of transit States and assistance for the reduction of excess stocks of licit drugs.

4. Some delegations also felt that the system-wide action plan was not fully in keeping with the guidelines set out by the General Assembly in resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989, mainly in terms of time limits and the specific objectives to be achieved by the bodies of the United Nations system.

5. Some delegations felt that any decision or recommendation regarding the plan could benefit from the contribution of the meetings of experts to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/141.

6. A number of delegations felt that the information provided on resource requirements was of a very general nature and should have been spelt out in greater detail. A more transparent presentation was desirable in order to illustrate better the distinction between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, both for the United Nations itself and for the other organizations of the system.

7. Some delegations considered that efforts should continue to define more precisely the responsibilities of the United Nations drug control units and the contributions of the specialized agencies to the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and that an inventory of complementary activities by Member States in fulfilment of the recommendations addressed to them by the General Assembly might provide a more comprehensive picture in the future.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee took note of the system-wide action plan on drug abuse control, decided to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council and to call the attention of the Council to the need for a revised version fully incorporating all mandates and activities included in the Global Programme of Action for timely submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

9. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General prepare a statement of programme budget implications for the implementation of all mandates and activities included in the Global Programme of Action, taking into consideration the discussion that took place at the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination under the present agenda item, for timely submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

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II. REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. At its 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th and 21st meetings on 16 to 18 and 21 and 22 May, the Committee considered the analytical report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 (A/45/226).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. With respect to the methodology followed by the Secretary-General in preparing the analytical report, the Committee noted that the report did not adhere strictly to the provisions of paragraph 28 of the Committee's report on its twenty-ninth session. The Committee concluded, however, that by following the structure of the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, it provided updated information on the status of implementation of the specific recommendations of the Group.

3. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's report, in general, provided a useful account of action taken to implement General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and of the areas in which further action was required.

4. The Committee expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in many areas where reform was called for in resolution 41/213, as a result of the joint efforts of Member States, the Secretary-General and the staff of the Organization.

5. While noting areas in which progress had been limited or not possible, inter alia, in the economic and social sectors, the Committee concurred with the Secretary-General that the Organization had, in a number of areas, fulfilled the mandate for reform to the best of its abilities. The Committee also concurred that the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization was a continuing process and that the Organization should enter a stage of consolidation in order to strengthen its capacity to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

6. The Committee noted that, as indicated during its discussion of the programme performance report, the indices contained therein did not lend themselves easily to an overall assessment of the real impact of the implementation of recommendation 15 on programmes.

7. The Committee agreed that the relationship between posts and programmes funded from the regular budget and those funded from extrabudgetary resources required further analysis and consideration.

8. The Committee emphasized the need for continuing action in certain areas, as follows:

(a) Political sector: the Committee requested the Secretary-General to consolidate the results achieved in the restructuring of the political sector.

(b) Personnel questions and posts: the Committee, while recalling the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, as approved by the General Assembly, concerning questions of personnel and posts, stressed the need for further efforts to achieve the relevant objectives of resolutions 41/213, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 43/213 of 21 December 1988, and 44/200 and 44/201 of 21 December 1989.

(c) Conference services: while noting many positive improvements in the area of conference services, the Committee expressed the view that further progress required full co-operation on the part of Member States and recognized the important role of the Committee on Conferences in that regard, which should be exercised in accordance with resolution 43/222 of 21 December 1988. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request the Committee on Conferences to develop further guidelines for its consideration with a view to reducing the volume of documentation, including that circulated by Member States.

(d) Economic and social sectors: the Committee expressed the hope that the improvement in the global political climate might extend into co-operation in the economic and social spheres, thereby contributing to the necessary restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 44/103 of 11 December 1989 and 44/200, and as indicated in paragraph 67 of the analytical report of the

Secretary-General. The Committee reiterated its view that any measures to be proposed by the Secretary-General in that area should be reviewed by the Committee in order to examine their effect on programmes.

(e) Construction: the Committee reiterated its view that the Secretary-General should adhere closely to the schedule outlined in his report on the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-third session (A/C.5/43/16).

(f) Co-ordination: while reiterating the views expressed at its twenty-ninth session, the Committee emphasized the importance of co-ordination as a policy instrument in improving the performance of the organizations of the system, ensuring complementarity of effort and increasing cost-effectiveness.

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to highlight systematically, in the existing reporting mechanisms pertaining to the above areas, or, as necessary, through a specific report, the progress achieved.

10. The Committee noted that, despite the many difficulties encountered, the role of the Organization as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations had been enhanced during the period under review. The Committee concurred with the view expressed by the Secretary-General that Governments of Member States were increasingly seeking the assistance of the United Nations.

11. The Committee noted that, despite the additional tasks entrusted to the United Nations, financial uncertainty had continued. In that regard, the Committee stressed the essential need for all Member States to respect their legal obligations concerning full and timely payments of assessed contributions.

12. The Committee observed that in order to achieve the objectives of Member States, as reflected in the programmes of the United Nations, the financial viability of the Organization was required. To that end, not only timely and full payment of assessed contributions, but also proportionality between resources and programmes, an appropriate relationship between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, careful determination of priorities and constant vigilance in securing the highest possible standards of effectiveness were also required.

13. The Committee recognized that the operation of the new budgetary process had resulted in the adoption by consensus of the outline and the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Committee recalled, also, that the new budgetary process was still in a developmental stage and that several methodological issues were still pending. The Committee likewise recalled that the decision-making process was governed by the provisions of the Charter and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

14. The Committee recognized that the Organization had entered a new era in which, as never before, both Member States and the Secretariat would be challenged to develop new visions and attitudes.

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IV. CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

1. At its _____ meetings on _____ May 1990, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1989 (E/1990/18 and Add.1) and the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/4).

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Strengthening co-ordination in the United Nations system

2. The Committee agreed that there was a growing need for efficient and coherent utilization of the human and financial resources, as well as a complementarity of efforts, of the United Nations system as a whole and it highlighted the importance it attached to co-ordination as an important instrument to achieve that, at both the intergovernmental and inter-secretariat levels.

3. The Committee recognized that the existing mechanisms for co-ordination, at the intergovernmental, intra- and inter-secretariat levels, were well established. It was noted, however, that better use of those mechanisms had to be made and an increased commitment vis-à-vis system-wide co-ordination from both secretariats of the United Nations system and from Member States was desirable.

4. The Committee noted that improvement of co-ordination in the United Nations system was one of the topics to be considered at the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The Committee looked forward to receiving appropriate documentation from the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that would facilitate discussion of the topic.

5. The Committee agreed that the discussion of the question of strengthening of co-ordination in the United Nations system should continue on the basis of relevant information to be submitted to the Committee by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

6. [It was considered that co-ordination could be strengthened by effective application of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including Article 17, paragraph 3, and Article 63.]

7. At the inter-secretariat level, the Committee agreed that the leadership role in co-ordination of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, should be reaffirmed, particularly in encouraging that Committee to continue to improve its work.

8. The Committee noted that more effective co-ordination would be facilitated through improved compilation and transparency of all necessary data from across the system, based on consistent definitions of specific functional areas.

2. The annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

9. The Committee recognized that commendable initial efforts had been made to improve the format and content of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination overview report of 1989. The Committee considered the summary of the report well prepared, highlighting major issues and problems addressed by the Administrative Committee.

10. The Committee welcomed the foreword by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The Committee appreciated the emphasis placed by him on the need for global co-operation in the form of joint action by organizations of the United Nations system in addressing major global problems.

11. The Committee encouraged the Administrative Committee to continue to focus its annual report on major developments in the United Nations in the previous year and to identify issues where multi-agency action was required. It should also review progress made in the implementation of system-wide action plans.

12. The Committee agreed that the the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination report should be more forward-looking and provide action-oriented conclusions and recommendations. Where differences existed among its members or where difficulties in co-ordination were encountered, it should keep Member States informed, including providing information on remedial measures that had been considered and implemented.

13. The Committee drew the attention of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the following comments, which were relevant for the preparation of future reports:

(a) On the preparation of the new international development strategy, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should indicate relevant programmes and resources of respective organizations that might be used to implement the proposed new strategy;

(b) On questions related to environment and development, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should systematically report on ongoing activities, including specific cases of co-operative activities. Such information would facilitate the task of the Preparatory Committee of the 1992 Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989;

(c) On the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should improve inter-agency co-ordination within the United Nations system of various programmes concerning that Decade, which will also be considered under the agenda item of natural disaster reduction at the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

(d) The efforts of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to make optimal use of resources to enhance the public image of the United Nations were commended;

(e) The effort to achieve closer co-ordination and co-operation of the procurement activities of the system should be further intensified. The Committee noted the progress made so far and concurred that such efforts could result in considerable savings for participating organizations of the system. The Committee encouraged the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to report on further progress in the future;

(f) The Committee looked forward to receiving the views and recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 in its annual overview report for 1990;

(g) The Committee recommended that the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees should consider information to be presented to them on a prototype for a revised annual overview report of the Administrative Committee.

14. The Committee welcomed the decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to reconvene its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) to ensure the provision in its future reports of comprehensive information on the programmes and resources of the organizations of the system, as requested by Member States. The Committee looked forward to the active contributions of all organizations of the system in that endeavour. Bearing in mind the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized

agencies, the Committee emphasized that it was essential that the resources contributed to organizations of the system were allocated and utilized in a most cost-effective manner for the benefit of all countries, particularly the developing countries.

15. The Committee noted the ongoing efforts made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to improve its own functioning as well as that of its subsidiary machinery. The Committee looked forward to the outcome of those efforts. The Committee also recommended that the Administrative Committee make the necessary arrangements to ensure the coherent and systematic implementation of its own recommendations.

16. The Committee underlined the importance of the decision of the General Assembly that the overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should continue to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and to the Economic and Social Council and subsequently made available to the General Assembly, together with the relevant conclusions and recommendations of those bodies on the report in accordance with existing practice. In the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the report and the relevant conclusions and recommendations on it, should be given proper attention and due consideration as the major report on the activities of the United Nations system.

3. Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

17. The Committee took note of the report of the twenty-fourth series of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees and recommended the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the conclusions and recommendations contained in it.

18. The Committee reaffirmed the importance that it attached to the Joint Meetings as a unique opportunity for a dialogue between Member States and executive heads of organizations of the system.

19. The Committee noted with appreciation the improvements that were made in the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings, particularly in the choice of specific topics, the preparatory meetings held to achieve a better focus for the joint meetings and the adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

20. The Committee is of the view, however, that further progress should be made. It recommended that the Joint Meetings should be conducted in such a way as to allow participants to have as much opportunity as possible for an open dialogue and frank and extensive exchanges. The Joint Meetings should not consist simply of the reading of prepared statements.

21. The Committee agreed that the Joint Meetings should continue to be preceded by adequate preparatory meetings. An effort should be made to avoid scheduling meetings of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly concurrently with the Joint Meetings. Documents prepared for the Joint Meetings should be made available in a timely manner.

22. Executive heads and representatives of Member States at the highest possible level should make every effort to be present at the Joint Meetings.

23. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to convey its views to the executive heads of organizations of the system and to encourage their active participation in future Joint Meetings.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

IV. CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on economic and social research and policy analysis

1. At its 14th meeting, on 15 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on economic and social research and policy analysis (E/AC.51/1990/8).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

3. The Committee noted the additional information contained in the report on developments in the field of social research and policy analysis in the United Nations system.

4. It also noted information on increasing efforts undertaken within the United Nations Secretariat and by autonomous research bodies of the United Nations system to improve the relationship and practical co-operation between units and organizations engaged in economic and social research.

5. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to secure greater interaction among the research bodies of the United Nations system and those outside the United Nations family of organizations.

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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 11. Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination

1. At its 47th, 48th and __th meetings, on 6 and __ June, the Committee considered programme 11, Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 11)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the programme structure was redundant and repetitious.

3. A number of delegations observed that, while the programme was well oriented on a general level, the catalytic role that General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 entrusted to the Director-General was not reflected in it.

4. A number of delegations expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the co-ordination of policies and programmes for the economic and social development of Africa was presented as a subprogramme and was not the subject of a programme by itself.

Conclusions and recommendations

[5. The Committee recommended approval of programme 11 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the following:

(a) Subprogramme 5 would be improved and broadened into a separate programme for African economic recovery and development. The programme should be prepared, taking into account the specific proposals made by delegations during the discussions regarding the content, format and structure of the programme. It should be submitted to the resumed thirtieth session of the Committee, in September 1990.

(b) The Secretary-General should prepare a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development and submit it to the thirty-second session of the Committee, in 1992.

(c) The programme and plan should be prepared in full consultation with the Economic Commission for Africa.]

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III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 30. Regional co-operation for development in Africa

1. At its 32nd meeting, on 29 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 30, Regional co-operation for development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 30)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations pointed to the link between the programme and programme 11, Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination, which included a subprogramme on co-ordination of policies and programmes for the economic and social development of Africa. A number of delegations expressed the view that there was no clear link between the objectives outlined in the present programme and those set in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic and Recovery and Development, 1986-1990.

3. Several delegations questioned the structure of the programme at the subprogramme level and expressed the view that the external debt crisis, economic

integration in Africa and tourism should have been the subject of subprogrammes. Others felt that subprogramme 8 should be renamed "Environment and development", subprogramme 14 "Energy - new and renewable" and subprogramme 15 "Science and technology for development".

4. Several delegations expressed reservations regarding the priority designations among subprogrammes as proposed in the programme. Some delegations suggested that high priority designation should be assigned to subprogramme 8, Environment, subprogramme 11, Trade development and co-operation, and subprogramme 15, Science and technology.

5. Some delegations expressed the view that, in a number of instances, the treatment of the problems addressed could have been undertaken in a more positive manner.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 30 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.